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UNCLAS QUITO 001352

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR WHA/PPC, WHA/AND, AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PGOV PREL EC

SUBJECT: PUSHING FOR PROGRESS ON THE 60-DAY PLAN

¶11. (SBU) Summary: On June 7, the Ambassador explained the importance to the United States of the new anti-trafficking law to General Jose Vinueza (the national chief of police), who promised to conduct raids and arrest traffickers. First Lady Maria Beatriz Paret responded enthusiastically on June 8 to the Ambassador's suggestions that she publicly discuss trafficking in persons (TIP) and distribute posters to educate the public about this scourge. We are planning a TIP conference with the OAS for late August and will focus on implementation of trafficking legislation, victim assistance, and underage prostitution. UNICEF launched a campaign against the TIP-related crimes of child abuse and exploitation on June 10 and publicized the changes in the criminal code. End Summary.

Ambassador Discusses TIP with Police Chief and First Lady

¶12. (SBU) On June 7, the Ambassador congratulated General Vinueza on his work to combat TIP, in particular DINAPEN's (the police that protect children) weekly raids. The Ambassador encouraged Vinueza to take advantage of the anti-trafficking law, which Congress passed on June 1, once the president has signed it. Vinueza pledged his commitment to fighting trafficking, promising to conduct raids on prostitution houses and make arrests using the new law.

¶13. (SBU) The Ambassador met with the First Lady on June 8 and reiterated her concern that the GOE needs to take significant steps forward against TIP in order to avoid cuts in aid. The Ambassador suggested the First Lady discuss the evils of trafficking and child prostitution in upcoming speeches and design and distribute educational posters. The First Lady said she was very interested in these ideas and also wanted to help street children (potential TIP victims) through the organization she heads, the National Institute for Children and Families (INNFA).

OAS-Funded TIP Conference in August

¶14. (U) The OAS has offered to largely fund a TIP conference in August with international trafficking experts. The conference will focus on implementation of the legislation Congress approved on June 1, victim identification and assistance, the connection between alien smuggling and trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation of minors. Participants will represent the GOE, NGOs, international organizations, and civil society to total approximately 100 people.

UNICEF Campaign to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

¶15. (U) UNICEF launched a media campaign against the TIP-related crimes of child sexual abuse and exploitation on June 10. Representatives from the government, including INNFA and the National Commission on Women; civil society; the private sector; and the media were present. UNICEF director Paul Martin spoke out against child pornography and child sexual abuse, mentioning the penal code reforms Congress recently approved and the need to penalize the clients of underage prostitutes.

Next Steps

¶16. (U) Just a week into the 60-day period, we are giving the GOE specific suggestions on how to proceed and emphasizing the need to act quickly. We are gathering information to help the First Lady make the poster campaign a reality in the near future. During the week of June 13, we will meet with the President's advisors on the anti-trafficking law, which he must sign or modify by June 17, and host a public forum on TIP with GOE officials speaking about the problem. The International Law Enforcement Academy is sponsoring a TIP conference, beginning June 13, that includes participants from throughout the hemisphere.

Kenney